George Washington honors POW/MIA's

Story and photo by MCSN Ricardo Guzman, *USS George Washington* Public Affairs

PACIFIC OCEAN – The U.S. Navy's forward-deployed aircraft carrier *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) held a ceremony Aug. 30 honoring prisoners of war (POW) and service members who are or were missing in action (MIA).

The ceremony, coordinated by *George Washington's* heritage committee and religious ministries, highlighted the importance of remembering those who remain unaccounted for and sacrificed for their country as a POW.

"I truly believe our military is fully committed to 'leave no man behind by any means necessary'," said Capt. G.J. Fenton, *George Washington's* commanding officer. "It is extremely important that as a Navy and as a nation, we continue to honor and remember those who have never returned. The sacrifices have helped make our nation the best in the world."

Observances of National POW/MIA Recognition Day are held across the country on United States military installations and ships at sea. The observance is one of six days throughout the year that Congress has mandated the flying of the National League of Families' POW/MIA Flag. The others are Armed Forces Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

"National POW/MIA Recognition Day is Sept. 21, but we chose today to take advantage of the opportunity to recognize their sacrifices and their efforts," said Fenton. "We have invested a great deal in resources to provide capabilities to recover personnel who are deemed a POW or MIA. That gives me great confidence as we carry out our mission."

Capt. G.J. Fenton, commanding officer of the forward-deployed aircraft carrier *USS George Washington* (CVN 73), speaks during a Prisoner of War (POW)/Missing in Action (MIA) remembrance.

During the ceremony, several speakers shared stories of POWs and MIAs to remind those present of those who have been lost or captured and the hardships that were endured by those found.

"The most recognized group of POWs and MIAs in our recent history was the Vietnam War," said Fenton. "We

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George Washington holds leadership seminar for chief selectees, junior officers

By MCSN Justin E. Yarborough, *USS George Washington* Public Affairs

PACIFIC OCEAN – Chief petty officer (CPO) selectees and junior officers had the opportunity to put their leadership skills to the test during a leadership seminar aboard the U.S. Navy's forward-deployed aircraft carrier *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) Sept. 1.

The two-day course covered topics on decision making based on real-life case studies and discussions about the roles of CPOs and officers in a division.

Guest speakers for these junior leaders included Rear Adm. J. R. Haley, commander, Task Force 70; Capt. G. J. Fenton, *George Washington's* commanding officer; and Capt. Michael Boyle, commander, Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 5, who pressed upon the attendees the importance of leadership for the positions they hold or will hold.

"It took me a couple of years to figure out how the Navy works, and I finally figured out that jets don't go flying unless there are a group of Sailors willing to preflight that airplane, get it set-up and get it going," said Fenton. "That doesn't happen without those Sailors by large being told what to do, and those folks who were telling them what to do were their divisional CPOs."

The seminar also touched on issues commonly seen in work centers, including how to handle unauthorized absences, emergency leave planning and other administrative actions that require good judgment and experience to make the correct decisions.

"This training is beneficial because these real-life scenarios we're covering are going to prepare us for when these events occur," said Chief Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) (Select) Gregory Stacey. "Sailors aren't normally involved in situations that chiefs deal directly with on a daily basis."

In addition to training, the seminar also provided the opportunity for future CPOs to start establishing a rapport with the divisional officers they will be working alongside.

"This training is extremely important because we're trying to build the relationship between the junior officers and chief selectees," said Senior Chief Aviation Support Equipment Technician (AW/SW) Glen Concepion, one of the training leaders for the seminar. "We're trying to have them interact at this early stage so that when they put on their anchors, they will be able to interact properly and work with junior officers towards a common goal."

SN Anthony Scott, assigned to the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer *USS McCampbell* (DDG 85), secures the "sea painter" line during a small boat training evolution.

U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Declan Barnes